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1. The draft for a compulsory service law has been completed at the East German Ministry of Interior. However, according to [REDACTED] Willi Stoph, Minister of Interior, the compulsory draft is to be promulgated only when VP units cannot be brought up to their authorized strength on a voluntary basis or if specific political events should require action.<sup>1</sup>
2. The supreme command of the National Armed Forces, established on 6 October 1952, includes: Franz Dählem, commander-in-chief; Vinzenz Mueller, chief of staff; Heinz Kessler, General Inspekteur of the air force; Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, General Inspekteur of the army; Waldemar Verner, General Inspekteur of the navy; and Hermann Garbmann, General Inspekteur of the border police. Franz Dählem's appointment as commander-in-chief has been kept secret.<sup>2</sup>
3. Since August, an intensive propaganda campaign has been under way for the reactivation of former officers. Walter Ickwess-Jitzmann, formerly a German General Staff Corps Colonel, who now wears the uniform of a colonel of the air police, stated on 7 October 1952 that the air police is short of suitable cadre personnel, but that every effort would be made to secure the cooperation of all who had had flying experience.<sup>3</sup>

25X1

1. ☐ Comment. This information is believed to be correct.
2. ☐ Comment. The appointment of Franz Dahlen to the position of commander-in-chief requires confirmation. It appears doubtful that Hermann Gartmann is assigned to the supreme command of the National Armed Forces. There are indications that the border police has been detached from the Ministry of State Security.
3. ☐ Comment. Recruiting commissions were recently ordered to concentrate their efforts on recruiting former soldiers.

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